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Forests

Assignment of the "Vavveru reserve" to depressed classes.

*212 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) for how many years past the question of granting the "Vavveru Reserve" in Nellore district for the depressed classes on darkhast is being contemplated; and

(b) at what stage is the question now?

A.—(a) The question of disafforesting a portion of the reserve for the purpose has been under consideration since 1920.

(b) A portion of the reserve, measuring 1,235 acres, was disafforested in 1924 and has been made available for assignment. But, after the scrub jungle growth was cleared, some time necessarily elapsed before the Public Works Department could accomplish the demarcation of the channels which are to irrigate the land. The general plan of the village to be established has already been determined, and the survey and subdivision of the land into assignable blocks is in progress. The Collector hopes to begin the assignment of land in May.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI:—"May I know if the lands are going to be granted free of cost to the depressed classes?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"That question will be considered when they receive the recommendation of the Collector."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"As a matter of policy, may I ask the hon. Member whether there is any limit of area which can be given to future applicants?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I want notice of the question."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether in making these assignments the fact that the Adi-Dravida or depressed class gentleman has already got land will be taken into consideration?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I hope so, Sir."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI:—"May I know if there is any Government Order issued in 1925, that land under a first-class irrigation source should not be given free of cost?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I rather think the question relates to me, Sir. I did not quite catch what the hon. Member said. Will he kindly repeat it?"

(The question was repeated.)

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I should think it very likely, Sir, but I should like to have notice."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI:—"May I know if there is such a Government Order and whether it is going to affect the assignment in this case?"

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The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" Very likely, Sir, if there is such a Government Order."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I inform the hon. the Revenue Member, Sir, . . . ?"

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member may have ample opportunities of giving information. He may put his supplementary question." (Laughter.)

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the people belonging to the depressed classes of the locality have undertaken to disafforest that reserve long before the Government Order came to be issued ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I do not think, Sir, the hon. Member can quite mean what he says. (Laughter.) It does not lie in the power of private people to disafforest reserves."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" They have been allowed, Sir. I do not know if the hon. Member is aware of it. That would have cost Government some thousands of rupees if the Government had undertaken to disafforest it separately, and the depressed classes were allowed to do it, and they did it in the hope of getting the land free of cost. If the hon. Member is not aware of it, I cannot be held responsible for it."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" May I inform the hon. the Revenue Member that such a thing is allowed in other districts also ? "

The hon. the President :—" What is the supplementary question, please ? "

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" I am coming to it, Sir. May I ask the hon. Member whether he is aware that such a thing is done in other districts also, namely, the Forest Department entering into a contract as it were with the would-be assignees and have the forest cleared and thereby getting increased revenue ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" That is not the meaning of the word 'disafforest,' Sir."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" As regards this 'Vavveru reserve,' Sir, I wish to know whether the lands therein are intended to be exclusively assigned to the depressed classes or would a portion at least be given to other caste ryots also ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I want notice."

Land Revenue

Remission of takavi loans in Anantapur, etc.

* 213 *Q.*—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether from the year 1921 onwards any portion of the principal of takavi loans has been remitted in the Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool districts ; and